

REMARKS

In a series of telephonic interviews with the Examiner held in late August, 2006, the Examiner pointed out that the cascading machine used in the prior art Kar process would, as it ramped up to high energy processing, necessarily pass through a low energy processing state. The Examiner requested that Applicants consider further amending the claims to differentiate from the low energy pass through operation of Kar.

Applicants propose amendments to the claims to further distinguish the invention over both Kar and Hoffman. Applicants claim the use of different media (a low-energy processing media and a high-energy processing media) for the low energy and high energy cascading operations, respectively, where the low-energy processing media includes an abrasive and high-energy processing media does not include an abrasive. The Kar operation utilizes a single abrasive media for its cascading operation, and thus when in low energy pass through as well as high energy processing, the same abrasive media is used by Kar. With respect to Hoffman, the Examiner has already correctly conceded that Hoffman fails to teach the combination of a low energy and high energy cascading operation since Hoffman is directed to the performance of two high energy cascading operations (col. 4, lines 53-54). Still further, Hoffman utilizes media in each of its high energy processes which includes an abrasive. The recited claim limitations accordingly distinguish over both Kar and Hoffman

With respect to claim 28, Applicants further claim that the low-energy processing media consists essentially of a cutting abrasive and water while the different high-energy processing media consists essentially of a detergent and water. There is no teaching or suggestion in Kar or

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Hoffman for the use of the specifically recited processing medias in connection with the specifically recited energy processing operations. See, also, dependent claims 11 and 26.

In view of the amendments presented herein, the application is now ready for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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